

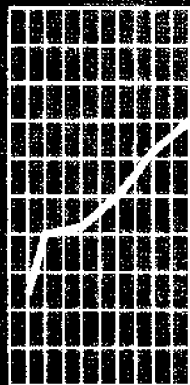


June 1996

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30 AM MON 17 JUNE 1996

# Business Indicators

## Australian Capital Territory



## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
July 1996	22 July 1996
August 1996	19 August 1996

### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

—	nil or rounded to zero
n.a.	not available
p	preliminary
n.p.	not available for publication

### INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Conrad Bulenda on Canberra (06)207 0286 or any ABS State office.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6627, or 252 6007 or any ABS State office.

Dalma Jacobs  
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### UPDATED SERIES

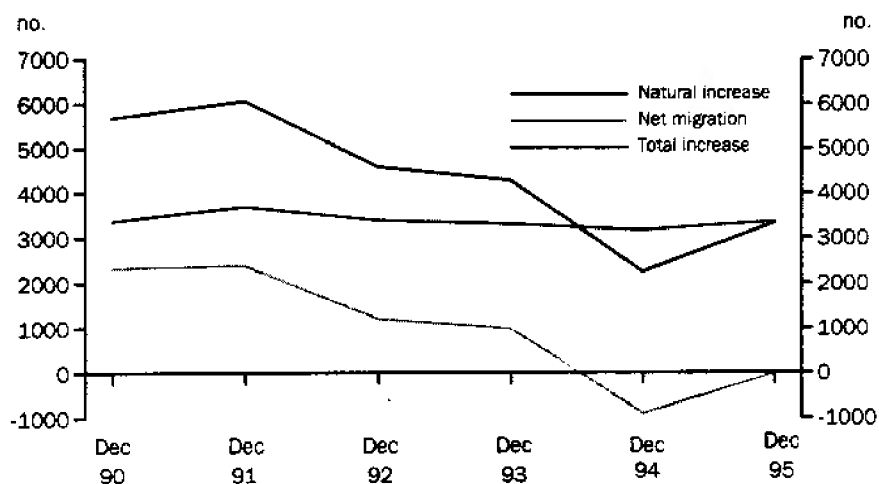
Series updated since the May 1996 issue are: population; labour force; industrial disputes; housing finance; building approvals; price indexes; average weekly earnings; retail turnover; and new motor vehicle registrations. A feature article on Superannuation in the ACT is included on page 6.

### NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

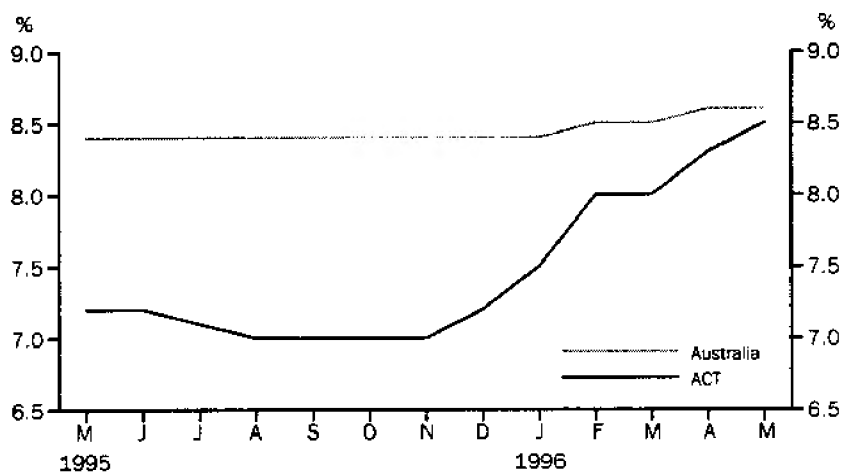
Population	The estimated resident population of the ACT as at 31 December 1995 was 304,900 the same as that reported for the previous quarter. The ACT population growth rate during the 12 months to 31 December 1995 was 1.1%, slightly below the 1.3% recorded nationally.
Unemployment	The trend number of persons employed in the ACT has fallen for each of the last six months from a peak of 159,700 persons in October 1995 to 154,900 persons in May 1996 (an overall fall of 4,800 persons or -3.0%). Over the same period, the trend unemployment rate has steadily increased from 7.0% to 8.5% and the trend participation rate has decreased from 74.3% to 72.9%.
Industrial disputes	In February 1996, there were only 26 working days lost per 1,000 employees in the ACT compared with 79 working days lost per 1,000 employees nationally.
Housing	<p>The trend number of dwelling units financed (includes refinancing) in the ACT has fallen for the last three months from a peak of 869 dwellings units financed in December 1995 to 844 dwellings units financed in March 1996 (an overall fall of 2.9%). The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT in March 1996 was \$86.4 million, a decrease of 0.5% on the previous month.</p> <p>The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT has fallen for each of the last five months from a peak of 245 dwellings in November 1995 to 150 dwellings in April 1996 (an overall fall of 38.8%). Over the same period nationally, it increased by 1.6%.</p> <p>The quarterly established house price index for Canberra fell by 1.2% in March 1996 after an increase of 0.5% in December 1995. This was greater than the decrease of 0.2% for the weighted average of the six State capital cities. In the 12 months from March 1995, the price index decreased 2.9% for the ACT compared to a 0.9% decrease for the capital cities' weighted average.</p>
Earnings	Trend estimates of average weekly earnings for the ACT continued the steady upward movement of the past two years. The average weekly earnings for February 1996 was \$638.60, an increase of 0.9% from the previous month. Nationally average weekly earnings increased by 0.7% to \$558.40.
Retail turnover	The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for April 1996 was \$188.9 million, up slightly on the previous month's figure of \$188.1 million. Nationally trend retail turnover increased by 7.0% over the last 12 months compared to 3.8% for the ACT.
New motor vehicle registrations	The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations for the ACT in April 1996 was 1,062, an increase of 0.1% over March 1996, and 1.0% lower than for April 1995. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations has shown consecutive rises since October 1995, with April 1996 recording a 1.1% increase.

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

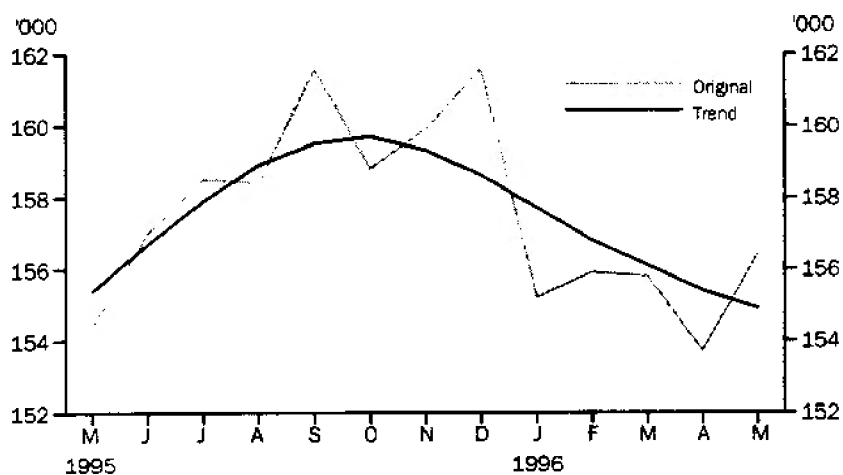
### COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH



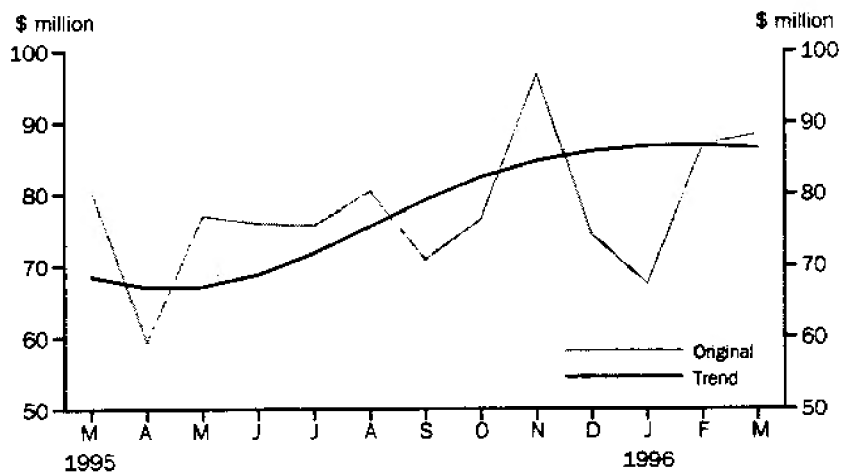
### LABOUR FORCE — TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



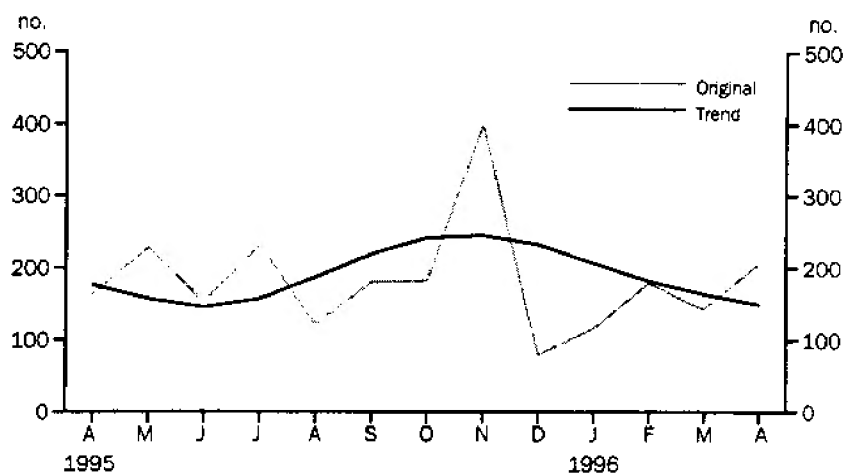
### LABOUR FORCE — EMPLOYMENT



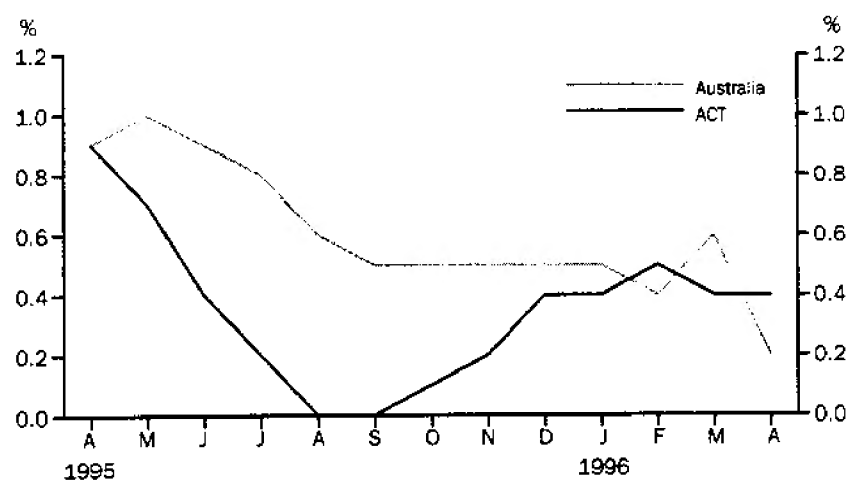
HOUSING FINANCE —  
TOTAL HOUSING  
COMMITMENTS



BUILDING APPROVALS —  
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



RETAIL TURNOVER —  
TREND PERCENTAGE  
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS  
MONTH



## FEATURE ARTICLE

## SUPERANNUATION, NOVEMBER 1995

Summarised below are results for the ACT from the Superannuation Survey which was run in association with the November 1995 Labour Force Survey. The survey provides information on superannuation coverage in the ACT for persons aged 15–74 years.

The survey results show that in November 1995, there were 208,077 persons aged 15–74 in the ACT. Some 153,075 (74%) of these persons were employed, of whom 132,102 (86%) were covered by superannuation — that is, they were personally contributing to a superannuation scheme and/or their employer or business was contributing to a superannuation scheme on their behalf. This compares to the same level of superannuation coverage amongst employed persons in November 1993 but is significantly higher than that of November 1991 (77% covered).

In November 1995, 91% of full-time workers in the ACT were covered by a superannuation scheme. This compares to the same level of coverage in 1993, but an increase from 87% in 1991. The proportion of part-time workers who were covered increased from 38% in November 1991, to 68% in 1993, and then to 70% in 1995.

In November 1995, 88% of employed males and 85% of employed females were covered by a superannuation scheme, compared to 86% of employed males and 85% of employed females in November 1993.

Superannuation was not consistent across age groups. Coverage was highest for employed persons aged 20–54 (88%) and those aged 55–64 (80%). Superannuation coverage for employed persons aged 15–19 was 61%.

The ACT Electricity, gas and water supply industry recorded the highest level of superannuation coverage with 100% of all persons employed in the industry covered. Lowest coverage was recorded in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry where 44% of workers were covered.

SUPERANNUATION COVERAGE, PERSONS AGED 15–74, NOVEMBER 1995

Item	ACT				Australia			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	'000	%
All employed persons								
Covered	71.0	61.1	132.1	86.3	3 775.8	2 769.3	6 545.1	80.9
Not covered	10.0	11.0	21.0	13.7	830.6	716.2	1 546.8	19.1
Total employed persons	81.0	72.1	153.1	100.0	4 606.4	3 485.5	8 091.8	100.0
Employed full time								
Covered	66.2	41.6	107.8	91.1	3 570.9	1 821.8	5 392.8	86.6
Not covered	7.0	3.5	10.5	8.9	606.4	230.2	836.7	13.4
Total employed full time	73.2	45.1	118.3	100.0	4 177.4	2 052.1	6 229.4	100.0
Employed part time								
Covered	4.7	19.6	24.3	69.9	204.9	947.4	1 152.3	61.9
Not covered	3.0	7.5	10.5	30.1	224.1	486.0	710.1	38.1
Total employed part time	7.7	27.1	34.8	100.0	429.0	1 433.4	1 862.4	100.0

Source: Superannuation, Australia 1995 (6319.0) and unpublished ABS data.

# 1

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, JUNE QUARTER 1996/MARCH QUARTER 1997, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

<i>Period</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
	%	%
<b>Short-term</b>		
Dec. qtr 1994-Mar. qtr 1995	-1.3	-0.5
Mar. qtr 1995-June qtr 1995	5.2	1.4
June qtr 1995-Sept. qtr 1995	0.8	1.3
Sept. qtr 1995-Dec. qtr 1995	2.0	2.1
Dec. qtr 1995-Mar. qtr 1996	0.5	-0.2
Mar. qtr 1996-June qtr 1996	1.8	2.3
<b>Medium-term</b>		
Dec. qtr 1994-Dec. qtr 1995	3.5	3.3
Mar. qtr 1995-Mar. qtr 1996	3.0	3.0
June qtr 1995-June qtr 1996	-0.8	2.3
Sept. qtr 1995-Sept. qtr 1996	3.1	3.4
Dec. qtr 1995-Dec. qtr 1996	3.8	4.4
Mar. qtr 1996-Mar. qtr 1997	2.3	4.1

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from		Latest figure	Change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous		Previous period	Same period previous
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, December qtr 95	'000s	304.9	0.0	1.1	18 173.6	0.3	1.3
Natural increase	no.	964	37.3	22.3	30 744	4.9	-7.6
Net migration	no.	-927	-1 216.9	50.7	28 428	-8.6	223.1
Total increase	no.	37	-95.3	-78.6	59 172	-2.1	40.6
LABOUR FORCE, May 96							
Original series							
Employed	'000s	156.4	1.8	1.3	8 337.1	0.7	1.3
Unemployed	'000s	13.5	-8.8	10.7	758.2	-4.4	0.6
Unemployment rate <sup>1</sup>	%	7.9	-0.9	0.6	8.3	-0.4	-0.1
Participation rate <sup>1</sup>	%	73.1	0.5	0.7	63.5	0.1	-0.2
Long-term unemployed (April 96)	no.	2 985	-12.4	15.4	218 546	-5.0	-10.7
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (March 96) <sup>1</sup>	%	20.1	-1.7	-2.0	27.6	-0.8	-5.3
Trend series							
Employed	'000s	154.9	-0.3	-0.3	8 301.9	-0.1	0.9
Unemployed	'000s	14.3	1.4	18.2	785.5	0.6	3.6
Unemployment rate <sup>1</sup>	%	8.5	0.2	1.3	8.6	0.0	0.2
Participation rate <sup>1</sup>	%	72.9	-0.1	0.1	63.5	-0.1	-0.2
JOB VACANCIES, February 96	'000s	1.6	14.3	23.1	63.9	13.9	11.7
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Feb. 96							
Working days lost	'000s	2.7	1 250.0	575.0	44.9	124.5	-15.0
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended August 95)	no.	26.0	160.0	333.3	79.0	-1.2	2.6
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, March 96							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	6.2	10.7	-20.5	569.7	8.8	-10.2
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	8.4	7.7	-36.4	196.6	3.1	8.1
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	56.2	4.7	17.1	3 309.6	4.0	10.9
Total housing commitments	\$m	88.4	1.8	9.8	4 075.9	4.6	7.2
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	84.8	0.1	22.0	3 703.2	-5.0	13.2
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	844	-1.5	23.9	39 164	0.4	15.0
Total housing commitments	\$m	86.4	-0.5	26.1	3 816.1	0.6	16.6

For footnotes see end of table.



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JUNE 1996								Continued
Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia			
		Latest figure	Previous period	Change from	Latest figure	Previous period	Change from	
				Same period previous			Same period previous	
BUILDING APPROVALS, April 96								
Original series								
Dwelling units	no.	206	44.1	26.4	9 897	-2.6	-6.4	
Value of new residential	\$m	16.3	34.7	-1.8	950.3	2.6	-2.7	
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	12.2	351.9	177.3	198.4	-5.3	6.6	
Value of non-residential	\$m	18.4	24.3	-37.0	840.2	10.7	-26.6	
Value of total building	\$m	46.8	58.1	-6.8	1 988.9	5.0	-13.8	
Trend series								
Dwelling units	no.	150	-8.5	-14.8	10 386	1.0	-15.8	
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Dec. qtr 95								
New houses	no.	380	9.8	1.9	22 351.0	-6.1	-29.9	
Value of houses commenced	\$m	44.1	18.9	4.0	2 281.1	-6.2	-25.0	
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	57.9	-6.2	-21.0	2 388.6	-2.9	8.5	
Value of total commencements	\$m	152.0	9.8	-12.8	6 001.9	-7.5	-17.2	
PRICE INDEXES								
Established house price index, Mar. qtr 96	(1989-90=100.0)	127.0	-1.2	-2.9	112.2	-0.2	-0.9	
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING								
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX March qtr 96	(1989-90=100.0)							
Food		119.2	0.3	2.4	115.9	0.2	2.4	
Housing		112.2	0.4	3.2	105.7	-0.4	2.8	
Transportation		127.5	0.3	6.5	122.4	0.1	4.3	
All groups		120.8	0.7	3.9	119.0	0.4	3.7	
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, February 96								
Original series								
Males	\$	759.7	1.4	7.3	668.1	0.8	2.8	
Females	\$	525.9	1.9	2.6	439.4	2.2	2.0	
Total persons	\$	639.7	1.2	4.8	562.6	1.5	2.6	
Trend series								
Males	\$	760.9	1.6	7.8	665.0	0.5	2.6	
Females	\$	520.9	0.3	3.0	434.6	0.4	1.6	
Total persons	\$	638.6	0.9	5.7	558.4	0.7	2.4	

For footnotes see end of table.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JUNE 1996							
Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Change from	Latest figure	Previous period	Change from
				Same period previous			Same period previous
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, March 96</b>							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	75.8	-4.8	7.1	4 028.4	-1.9	8.7
Department stores	\$m	23.6	17.4	-0.8	908.1	10.9	0.2
Hospitality and services	\$m	29.3	-2.0	-1.3	1 736.8	-2.2	4.4
All other retailing	\$m	58.2	6.0	7.4	3 092.2	-0.7	5.9
Total	\$m	186.9	1.3	4.7	9 765.5	-0.5	6.2
Trend Series							
Food retailing	'000s	3 210.5	0.6	-1.6	9 305.0	9.0	4.3
Department stores	\$m	19.0	-1.0	1.1	851.6	12.6	12.1
Hospitality and services	\$m	15.9	-3.0	-4.8	724.3	11.3	6.6
All other retailing	%	64.6	1.9	-1.6	59.7	-0.2	0.7
Total	'000s	208.2	-6.5	-0.6	9 011.1	1.1	4.2
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, September qtr 95</b>							
Original series							
Room nights	'000s	3 210.5	0.6	-1.6	9 305.0	9.0	4.3
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.0	-1.0	1.1	851.6	12.6	12.1
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.9	-3.0	-4.8	724.3	11.3	6.6
Room occupancy rate (December qtr 95) <sup>1</sup>	%	64.6	1.9	-1.6	59.7	-0.2	0.7
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000s	208.2	-6.5	-0.6	9 011.1	1.1	4.2
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.3	-2.0	2.1	830.7	3.6	12.2
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.2	-3.0	-3.6	706.4	2.3	6.7
Trend series							
Room nights	'000s	212.5	-3.2	2.2	9 005.3	0.6	4.1
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.6	—	7.1	828.5	2.7	12.2
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.5	-0.6	2.5	701.9	1.1	6.0
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Apr. 96</b>							
Motor vehicles	no.	972	2.3	26.6	50 138	-8.5	5.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 136	23.6	17.5	55 427	3.7	-1.4
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 062	0.1	1.0	55 102	1.1	1.0

For footnotes see end of table.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, JUNE 2000							
Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Change from			Change from		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous	Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>							
STATE ACCOUNTS, December qtr 95 <sup>2</sup>							
Original series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 239	10.1	1.2	113 867	9.1	3.8
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 635	11.4	2.9	127 092	9.0	6.4
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 024	7.0	2.2	110 696	6.2	2.6
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 465	4.6	4.5	79 096	6.4	6.8
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	232	30.3	-18.9	20 398	7.1	-2.4
Trend series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 099	0.4	1.1	106 392	0.6	2.5
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 464	0.8	2.3	119 638	1.3	5.7
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 903	1.1	0.3	105 641	0.5	2.5
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 399	1.0	5.0	75 259	1.5	7.0
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	192	3.8	-26.4	19 033	-0.2	-1.5

<sup>1</sup> Change shown in terms of percentage points.

<sup>2</sup> State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos. 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

### 3

#### ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>POPULATION</b>											
	'000s	Dec. qtr 95	6 155.0	4 521.8	3 316.5	1 475.9	1 747.0	473.2	176.7	304.9	18 173.6
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (trend)	'000s	May 96	2 772.2	2 079.2	1 523.9	658.5	831.1	201.4	82.4	154.9	8 301.9
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	May 96	8.2	8.8	9.1	9.6	7.5	10.4	7.8	8.5	8.6
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS<sup>1</sup></b>											
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	36 282	28 184	17 379	7 427	11 647	2 140	1 214	2 099	106 392
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	41 468	31 371	19 346	8 674	12 448	2 508	1 275	2 464	119 638
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Apr. 96	3 097	1 870	2 681	430	1 169	246	198	206	9 897
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Apr. 96	3 381	2 023	2 583	442	1 444	219	139	150	10 386
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Apr. 96	266.9	164.7	261.7	27.5	66.5	11.8	22.7	18.4	840.2
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Apr. 96	674.5	395.4	537.7	67.9	188.2	38.3	40.1	46.8	1 988.9
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Dec. qtr 95	1 302.7	575.8	844.1	169.5	743.2	68.4	60.6	38.9	3 803.3
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	Feb. qtr 96	694.90	658.00	615.30	623.10	683.60	619.80	663.30	771.30	664.80
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Apr. 96	3 689.2	2 319.4	1 854.1	754.8	1 040.4	246.7	118.7	188.9	10 212.2
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000s	Sept. qtr 95	3 110.0	1 467.3	2 350.3	507.4	797.4	273.4	287.0	212.5	9 005.3
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	Apr. 96	19 217	13 000	10 595	3 817	5 684	1 087	640	1 062	55 102

For footnotes see end of table.

### 3

#### ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — continued

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)</b>											
Food		Mar. qtr 96	116.6	113.6	117.0	118.2	116.9	118.1	117.4	119.2	115.9
Housing		Mar. qtr 96	109.2	99.8	112.1	103.9	101.2	107.2	120.2	112.2	105.7
Transportation		Mar. qtr 96	122.8	121.9	120.5	123.9	123.2	119.0	117.9	127.5	122.4
All Groups		Mar. qtr 96	119.1	118.3	119.6	121.6	117.1	120.1	119.8	120.8	119.0
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Mar. qtr 96	113.0	120.0	114.0	114.0	120.0	120.0	111.0	106.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Mar. qtr 96	185.0	164.0	179.0	152.0	170.0	152.0	190.0	179.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Mar. qtr 96	1 307.0	1 150.0	1 101.0	1 122.0	1 091.0	1 177.0	1 230.0	1 143.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Mar. qtr 96	277.0	337.0	269.0	350.0	333.0	340.0	380.0	310.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Mar. qtr 96	96.0	112.0	101.0	72.0	117.0	88.0	124.0	93.0	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Mar. qtr 96	575.0	572.0	584.0	552.0	556.0	638.0	581.0	586.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Mar. qtr 96	313.0	269.0	249.0	318.0	376.0	218.0	306.0	270.0	n.a.
Private motoring petrol, leaded	1 litre	Mar. qtr 96	72.5	71.9	64.1	73.6	75.2	76.0	76.9	75.6	n.a.
Private motoring petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Mar. qtr 96	70.5	69.8	62.1	71.3	73.1	74.0	74.9	73.5	n.a.

<sup>1</sup> State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).

## 4

## ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>POPULATION</b>	Dec. qtr 95	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.3
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>										
Employed persons (trend)	May 96	-0.2	0.0	—	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1
Unemployment rate (trend) <sup>1</sup>	May 96	0.1	0.1	—	—	-0.1	—	0.3	0.2	—
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS<sup>2</sup></b>										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Dec. qtr 95	0.4	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Dec. qtr 95	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.8	1.3
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>										
Dwelling units approved	Apr. 96	-5.0	-11.8	10.8	-1.6	-22.1	49.1	66.4	44.1	-2.6
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Apr. 96	0.4	1.9	1.9	—	0.6	2.8	9.5	-8.2	1.0
Value of non-residential building approved	Apr. 96	-0.9	-11.3	66.4	-44.9	16.9	-5.6	80.2	24.3	10.7
Value of all buildings approved	Apr. 96	-0.1	-6.5	35.7	-30.6	-10.4	31.6	18.3	58.1	5.0
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>										
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec. qtr 95	4.1	9.6	16.6	19.8	45.1	58.0	17.7	22.3	16.0
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	Feb. qtr 96	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.9	1.8	0.9	—	1.1	0.8
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>										
Retail turnover (trend)	Apr. 96	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Sept. qtr 95	2.0	1.0	-0.9	2.1	-1.8	3.0	0.2	3.2	0.6
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>										
Trend	Apr. 96	1.6	0.5	0.6	1.0	2.4	-0.3	-0.8	0.1	1.1
	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>										
(1989-90=100.0)										
Food	Mar. qtr 96	0.2	-0.4	1.0	—	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.2
Housing	Mar. qtr 96	0.7	-2.9	—	0.1	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.4	-0.4
Transportation	Mar. qtr 96	0.7	-0.5	0.3	-0.3	0.1	-0.9	-0.3	0.3	0.1
All Groups	Mar. qtr 96	0.7	-0.2	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Mar. qtr 96	-1.8	2.6	1.8	—	3.4	—	1.8	—	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Mar. qtr 96	-0.5	—	-0.6	2.7	2.4	-1.3	0.5	—	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Mar. qtr 96	-0.3	2.8	-3.0	-0.7	-0.9	5.7	3.6	-0.7	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Mar. qtr 96	-1.1	3.7	0.7	5.7	1.2	5.3	6.1	2.3	n.a.
Potatoes	Mar. qtr 96	-27.8	-36.7	-33.1	-46.3	-2.5	-5.4	18.4	-31.6	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Mar. qtr 96	-2.7	-3.1	-2.7	—	-3.6	-0.9	1.6	0.7	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Mar. qtr 96	—	1.1	1.2	0.3	0.5	1.4	—	-6.3	n.a.
Private motoring petrol, leaded	Mar. qtr 96	0.8	-1.5	—	-0.5	-0.7	-3.2	-0.3	-0.7	n.a.
Private motoring petrol, unleaded	Mar. qtr 96	0.9	-1.7	—	-0.6	-0.8	-3.3	-0.3	-0.8	n.a.

<sup>1</sup> Change shown in terms of percentage points.<sup>2</sup> State estimates are not comparable to national estimates for June quarter 1995 due to revised aggregates in State Accounts (5242.0).



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